

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. A method for determining an integrated logistic support (ILS) date at which a particular ship upgrade can proceed, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a change document in response to a perceived problem associated with a particular type of equipment;

associating said change document with those ships having said particular type of equipment;

associating the particular ship upgrade with the change document for that particular ship upgrade;

determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document; and

selecting a most remote one of the determined arrival dates as the ILS date.

6. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

obtaining a promised delivery date for delivering an upgrade parts kit; and

comparing the promised delivery date with a selected starting date for said ship upgrade.

7. A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of generating a change document is performed by engineering personnel.

8. A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of generating a change document includes the step of generating a change document including at least a rough solution to said perceived problem.

9. A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of generating a change document includes the step of generating a change document identifying the system which is impacted.

10. A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of associating said change document with those ships having said particular type of equipment includes the

step of determining whether a particular class of ship is affected.

11. A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of associating the particular ship upgrade with the change document for that that particular ship upgrade includes the step of assignment of an alteration number representing a particular alteration of a particular ship.

12. A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document includes the steps of;

determining at least one of if (a) a Tailored Repairable Items List is required, (b) training is required to implement the alteration of the ship, (c) an Allowance Parts List is required, (d) technical manuals are required, (e) Preventive Maintenance Schedule and Maintenance Requirement Cards are required, (f) a shipyard Installation and Checkout Spares List is required, (g) an Alteration Installation and Checkout Spares List is required, (h) a Coordinated Shore Base

Materiel Allowance List is required, (i) Support and Test Equipment is required, (j) Maintenance Assist Modules are required, (k) On-Board Allowance is required, and (l) alteration instructions are required.

13. A method according to claim 5, wherein said step of determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document includes the steps of:

determining whether alteration parts kits are required; and

if alteration parts kits are required, determining the promised delivery date for those not yet arrived.

14. A method for determining an integrated logistic support (ILS) date at which a particular ship upgrade can proceed, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a change document in response to a perceived problem associated with a particular type of equipment;

associating said change document with those ships having said particular type of equipment;

associating the particular ship upgrade with the change document for that that particular ship upgrade;

determining arrival dates of all elements associated with the particular upgrade associated with the change document;

selecting a most remote one of the determined arrival dates as the ILS date; and

comparing the ILS date with a selected starting date for the ship upgrade.

15. A method according to claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

obtaining a promised delivery date for delivering an upgrade parts kit; and

comparing the promised delivery date with the selected starting date.